PROCLAMATION
Declaration of an Agricultural Emergency
Miami-Dade County

WHEREAS the Oriental Fruit Fly, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, is a significant threat to the agricultural and horticultural well-being of the State; and

WHEREAS, the introduction and establishment of the Oriental Fruit Fly in Florida constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the economic health, safety or welfare of the state and to the citizens of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Oriental Fruit Fly is an invasive species that is considered one of the most destructive of the world's fruit fly pests, as it attacks more than 430 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including avocado, mango, mamey, lychee, loquat, longan, dragon fruit, guava, papaya, sapodilla, banana and annona, all of which are grown in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is the state's leader in the production of tropical vegetables, tropical fruit and ornamental nurseries, and overall agricultural production generates more than $1.6 billion in annual economic impact and supports more than 11,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, an infestation of the Oriental Fruit Fly was detected in south Miami-Dade County on August 26th, which has grown to be the largest infestation of Oriental Fruit Fly in Florida's history, threatening the area's ability to produce the fruit and vegetables the nation has grown to rely on during the winter months, the region's overall economic health and the thousands of jobs that rely on this industry, and a quarantine went into effect on September 4th; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has implemented immediate eradication procedures, which include the placement of detection traps, the treatment of host fruit trees on properties determined to be infested or that could be infested due to proximity of known infested host trees, the application of treatments in areas around infested properties and the establishment of an 85-square-mile quarantine zone; and

WHEREAS, the infestation of the Oriental Fruit Fly imposes significant harm to Florida's agriculture industry, which generates $120 billion in annual economic impact and supports 2 million jobs, and, consequently, will negatively impact Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, the infestation of the Oriental Fruit Fly will rapidly spread further in the county and, ultimately, to other areas of Florida and the United States without continued aggressive eradication measures; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4(b) of the Florida Constitution declares that the Commissioner of Agriculture shall have supervision of matters pertaining to agriculture except as otherwise provided by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 570.07(21), Florida Statutes, the Commissioner of Agriculture has the authority to declare an emergency when one exists in any matter pertaining to agriculture; and

WHEREAS, when the Commissioner of Agriculture has declared an agricultural emergency, no county or municipal ordinance relating to any action intended to end the emergency shall be enforced within a county or municipality with respect to such action taken by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services during the agricultural emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Adam H. Putnam, as Commissioner of Agriculture, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution and Section 570.07(21), Florida Statutes, hereby proclaim the existence of an agricultural emergency in Miami-Dade County, based on the infestation of the Oriental Fruit Fly, affecting the agricultural and horticultural interests of this state that is an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety or welfare in the State of Florida. Further, I hereby declare the Oriental Fruit Fly to be a public and agricultural nuisance pursuant to the authority granted in Section 581.031(6), Florida Statutes.

This Order shall expire on October 15, 2015, unless extended.

EXECUTED THIS 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2015.

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ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Filed with the Agency Clerk